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File: USPT

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6057336 A
TITLE: Lactam metalloprotease inhibitors

Brief Summary Text (4):

There is now a body of evidence that metalloproteinases (MP) are important in the uncontrolled breakdown of connective tissue, including proteoglycan and collagen, leading to resorption of the extracellular matrix. This is a feature of many pathological conditions, such as rheumatoid and osteoarthritis, corneal, epidermal or gastric ulceration; tumor metastasis or invasion; periodontal disease and bone disease. Normally these catabolic enzymes are tightly regulated at the level of their synthesis as well as at their level of extracellular activity through the action of specific inhibitors, such as alpha-2-macroglobulins and TIMP (tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinase), which form inactive complexes with the MP's.

Brief Summary Text (5):

Osteo- and Rheumatoid Arthritis (OA and RA respectively) are destructive diseases of articular cartilage characterized by localized erosion of the cartilage surface. Findings have shown that articular cartilage from the femoral heads of patients with OA, for example, had a reduced incorporation of radiolabeled sulfate over controls, suggesting that there must be an enhanced rate of cartilage degradation in OA (Mankin et al. J. Bone Joint Surg. 52A, 1970, 424-434). There are four classes of protein degradative enzymes in mammalian cells: serine, cysteine, aspartic and metalloproteinases. The available evidence supports that it is the metalloproteinases which are responsible for the degradation of the extracellular matrix of articular cartilage in OA and RA. Increased activities of collagenases and stromelysin have been found in OA cartilage and the activity correlates with severity of the lesion (Mankin et al. Arthritis Rheum. 21, 1978, 761-766, Woessner et al. Arthritis Rheum. 26, 1983, 63-68 and Ibid. 27, 1984, 305-312). In addition, aggrecanase (a newly identified metalloproteinase enzymatic activity) has been identified that provides the specific cleavage product of proteoglycan, found in RA and OA patients (Lohmander L. S. et al. Arthritis Rheum. 36, 1993, 1214-22).

Brief Summary Text (6):

Therefore metalloproteinases (MP) have been implicated as the key enzymes in the destruction of mammalian cartilage and bone. It can be expected that the pathogenesis of such diseases can be modified in a beneficial manner by the administration of MP inhibitors, and many compounds have been suggested for this purpose (see Wahl et al. Ann. Rep. Med. Chem. 25, 175-184, AP, San Diego, 1990).

Brief Summary Text (8):

Compounds which inhibit the production of TNF are therefore of therapeutic importance for the treatment of inflammatory disorders. Recently it has been shown that a matrix metalloproteinase or family of metalloproteinases, hereafter known as TNF-convertases (TNF-C), as well as other MP's are capable of cleaving TNF from its inactive to active form (Gearing et al Nature, 1994, 370, 555). This invention describes molecules that inhibit this conversion and hence the secretion of active TNF- α from cells. These novel molecules provide a means of mechanism based therapeutic intervention for diseases including but not restricted to septic shock, haemodynamic shock, sepsis syndrom, post ischaemic reperfusion injury, malaria, Crohn's disease, inflammatory bowel diseases, mycobacterial infection, meningitis, psoriasis, congestive heart failure, fibrotic diseases, cachexia, graft rejection, cancer, diseases involving angiogenesis, autoimmune diseases, skin inflammatory diseases, osteo and rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, radiation damage, hyperoxic alveolar injury,

periodontal disease, HIV and non-insulin dependent diabetes melitus.

Brief Summary Text (13):

The compounds of the current invention act as inhibitors of MMPs, in particular aggrecanase and TNF. These novel molecules are provided as anti-inflammatory compounds and cartilage protecting therapeutics. The inhibition of aggrecanase, TNF-C, and other metalloproteinases by molecules of the present invention indicates they are anti-inflammatory and should prevent the degradation of cartilage by these enzymes, thereby alleviating the pathological conditions of osteo- and rheumatoid arthritis.

Detailed Description Text (1367):

Metalloproteinases have also been implicated in the degradation of basement membranes to allow infiltration of cancer cells into the circulation and subsequent penetration into other tissues leading to tumor metastasis. (Stetler-Stevenson, Cancer and Metastasis Reviews, 9, 289-303, 1990.) The compounds of the present invention should be useful for the prevention and treatment of invasive tumors by inhibition of this aspect of metastasis.

Detailed Description Text (1369):

Compounds which inhibit the production or action of TNF and/or Aggrecanase and/or MP's are potentially useful for the treatment or prophylaxis of various inflammatory, infectious, immunological or malignant diseases. These include, but are not limited to inflammation, fever, cardiovascular effects, hemorrhage, coagulation and acute phase response, an acute infection, septic shock, haemodynamic shock and sepsis syndrome, post ischaemic reperfusion injury, malaria, Crohn's disease, mycobacterial infection, meningitis, psoriasis, periodontitis, gingivitis, congestive heart failure, fibrotic disease, cachexia, and anoxia, graft rejection, cancer, corneal ulceration or tumor invasion by secondary metastases, autoimmune disease, skin inflammatory diseases, multiple osteo and rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, radiation damage, HIV, and hyperoxic alveolar injury.

Detailed Description Text (1371):

Some compounds of the present invention have been shown to inhibit aggrecanase a key enzyme in cartilage breakdown as determined by the aggrecanase assay described below.

Detailed Description Text (1376):

The substrate concentration, amount of aggrecanase time of incubation and amount of product loaded for Western analysis were optimized for use of this assay in screening putative aggrecanase inhibitors. Aggrecanase is generated by stimulation of cartilage slices with interleukin-1 (IL-1), tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF.differential.) or other stimuli. Matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) are secreted from cartilage in an inactive, zymogen form following stimulation, although active enzymes are present within the matrix. We have shown that following depletion of the extracellular aggrecan matrix, active MMPs are released into the culture media. (Tortorella, M. D. et. al. Trans. Ortho. Res. Soc. 20, 341, 1995). Therefore, in order to accumulate BNC aggrecanase in culture media, cartilage is first depleted of endogenous aggrecan by stimulation with 500 ng/ml human recombinant IL-.beta. for 6 days with media changes every 2 days. Cartilage is then stimulated for an additional 8 days without media change to allow accumulation of soluble, active aggrecanase in the culture media. In order to decrease the amounts of other matrix metalloproteinases released into the media during aggrecanase accumulation, agents which inhibit MMP-1, -2, -3, and -9 biosynthesis are included during stimulation. This BNC conditioned media, containing aggrecanase activity is then used as the source of aggrecanase for the assay. Aggrecanase enzymatic activity is detected by monitoring production of aggrecan fragments produced exclusively by cleavage at the Glu373-Ala374 bond within the aggrecan core protein by Western analysis using the monoclonal antibody, BC-3 (Hughes, CE, et al., Biochem J 306:799-804, 1995). This antibody recognizes aggrecan fragments with the N-terminus, 374ARGSVIL, generated upon cleavage by aggrecanase. The BC-3 antibody recognizes this neopeptide only when it is at the N-terminus and not when it is present internally within aggrecan fragments or within the aggrecan protein core. Other proteases produced by cartilage in response to IL-1 do not cleave aggrecan at the Glu373-Ala374 aggrecanase site; therefore, only products produced upon cleavage by aggrecanase are detected. Kinetic studies using this assay yield a Km of 1.5+/-0.35 uM for aggrecanase.

Detailed Description Text (1377) :

To evaluate inhibition of aggrecanase, compounds are prepared as 10 mM stocks in DMSO, water or other solvents and diluted to appropriate concentrations in water. Drug (50 ul) is added to 50 ul of aggrecanase-containing media and 50 ul of 2 mg/ml aggrecan substrate and brought to a final volume of 200 ul in 0.2 M Tris, pH 7.6, containing 0.4 M NaCl and 40 mM CaCl₂. The assay is run for 4 hr at 37 degree C., quenched with 20 mM EDTA and analyzed for aggrecanase-generated products. A sample containing enzyme and substrate without drug is included as a positive control and enzyme incubated in the absence of substrate serves as a measure of background.

Detailed Description Text (1378) :

Removal of the glycosaminoglycan side chains from aggrecan is necessary for the BC-3 antibody to recognize the ARGSVIL epitope on the core protein. Therefore, for analysis of aggrecan fragments generated by cleavage at the Glu373-Ala374 site, proteoglycans and proteoglycan fragments are enzymatically deglycosylated with chondroitinase ABC (0.1 units/10 ug GAG) for 2 hr at 37 degree C. and then with keratanase (0.1 units/10 ug GAG) and keratanase II (0.002 units/10 ug GAG) for 2 hr at 37 degree C. in buffer containing 50 mM sodium acetate, 0.1 M Tris/HCl, pH 6.5. After digestion, aggrecan in the samples is precipitated with 5 volumes of acetone and resuspended in 30 ul of Tris glycine SDS sample buffer (Novex) containing 2.5% beta mercaptoethanol. Samples are loaded and then separated by SDS-PAGE under reducing conditions with 4-12% gradient gels, transferred to nitrocellulose and immunolocalized with 1:500 dilution of antibody BC3. Subsequently, membranes are incubated with a 1:5000 dilution of goat anti-mouse IgG alkaline phosphatase second antibody and aggrecan catabolites visualized by incubation with appropriate substrate for 10-30 minutes to achieve optimal color development. Blots are quantitated by scanning densitometry and inhibition of aggrecanase determined by comparing the amount of product produced in the presence versus absence of compound.